

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 237

By Sexton

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow, Inc.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to pay tribute to those exemplary organizations and their remarkable proprietors who work with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow, Inc., which was founded in 2020 by the precocious and enterprising William Cabaniss, whose desire to feed the hungry has been realized through his outstanding nonprofit organization; and

WHEREAS, the problem of hunger had always concerned Mr. Cabaniss; when he realized that some of his classmates sometimes went without food, he was inspired to donate bananas, his favorite fruit, to a local food pantry, along with monetary donations from his allowance; and

WHEREAS, as he got older, he began volunteering at a soup kitchen through his grandmother's church and at Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 quarantine, William Cabaniss came across a news segment that highlighted the long lines at food banks across the country and the need for monetary donations to help meet the increasing demands for food; afterward, when he was in the kitchen making his "Vanilla Brownies," he had the idea to make and sell vanilla extract to support food banks in need; and

WHEREAS, at the age of only fourteen, Mr. Cabaniss founded Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow, Inc., a 501(c)(3) that donates 100 percent of its profits to the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, through his research, William Cabaniss found that the best vanilla extract is homemade, using premium Madagascar vanilla beans; he makes his pure vanilla extract and sells it in eight-ounce bottles, each of which provides forty-two meals for residents of East Tennessee, where one in five people struggles with hunger; and

WHEREAS, at present, Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow has donated \$200,405, which has provided 601,215 meals to East Tennessee residents in need; and

WHEREAS, this phenomenal organization and its good works were made possible by the compassionate vision and focused intention of a young man who desired to make a difference in his community; and

WHEREAS, Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow continues its important, benevolent mission, improving the lives of countless East Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and commend Vanilla Feeds Tomorrow, Inc., and founder William Cabaniss for their ongoing commitment to alleviating hunger in East Tennessee, extending our deepest gratitude for their important work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.